

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 14, 1878, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Parker House. Nov. 14th, 1878. My sweet darling wife:

I wish I could only have you and baby here with me — or could go right back to you all by telephone.

We reached here this morning pretty comfortably. After reaching Niagara we took a sleeping car and had the men make up a bed for me so that I could relieve myself of my clothes. Ten minutes after I reached here a reporter appeared to interview me and then your Uncle Eustis and Mr. Chauncey Smith appeared — Edward Wilson — Mr. Sanders — Mr. Bradley and a friend and finally Willie Hubbard.

Every one wanted me to stay at his house but under the circumstances of the locality of my trouble — I decided it was best to stay here, but Dr. Collins Warren has been here examining me and he thinks it would be much better for me to obtain one of the private rooms at the Massachusetts General Hospital — where I would have all the comfort of a hotel and besides have some skilled man to poultice me and all that sort of thing. The new abscess has extended very much but Dr. Collins Warren thinks that a day or two of poulticing will make it show a head somewhere — and if there is any symptom of a head anywhere they will be able to relieve me from pain. It will not be necessary for me to go to Washington just now — Mr. Watson did not tell us that all I was wanted for was to write a Preliminary Statement which can be done as well in Canada or Boston as in Washington — after I have looked over papers and apparatus here and consulted lawyers. I want the key of my lock-box in the safe deposit vaults — and the key of your bureau where you

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have my letters kept — not that I have the remotest intention of publishing any of my love letters! I am only anxious to discover any 2 statements that may help me to fix dates.

Don't feel alarmed if my next letter is written from the Massachusetts General Hospital — I don't go there from necessity but for comfort. I merely use the private room as my hotel apartment and come and go as I please.

I hope you won't have Elsie carried up and down stairs at night. I know the angles and corners by experience and not only would there be risk of accident in the dark — but the hall is draughty. Better have her put in my cousin's room and let one of them come and tell you when she cries. My darling — I wish you would (part of letter missing)